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| | OCS-06 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-02 | PM-00 | PRS-01 | P-01 |
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TAGS: PROP, CASC, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE MFA BI-WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING, TUESDAY,
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1. IN THE BI-WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 11, CHINESE MFA

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SPOKESMAN SHEN GUOFANG RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF ARRESTED AMERICAN CITIZEN HARRY WU AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA. HE ALSO ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON U.S. DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF VIETNAM, A POSSIBLE U.S.-CHINA HIGH LEVEL MEETING AT THE UPCOMING ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM, AND ON CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN'S TRIP TO EUROPE.

ARREST OF HARRY WU

2. NUMEROUS REPORTERS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RECENT ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZEN HARRY WU. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. CONSULAR ACCESS TO HARRY WU, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT U.S. CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD ALREADY VISITED WU AND THAT IF ANOTHER VISIT WAS DESIRED THAT A REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHINESE LEGAL REGULATIONS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON THE SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST HARRY WU, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT WU HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY OBTAINING STATE SECRETS AND PASSING THEM ON TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. HE ADDED THAT
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THERE WERE FURTHER POSSIBLE CHARGES, BUT THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS STILL UNDER WAY. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT THIS POINT HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHARGES THAN WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED BY THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY. A REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STEALING STATE SECRETS AND ESPIONAGE. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE TWO WERE SIMILAR, HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT FOR WU'S ALLEGED CRIMES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.

4. REPORTERS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT HARRY WU'S LEGAL RIGHTS, WHETHER HE WOULD BE ALLOWED LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND WHETHER HE WAS CONSIDERED AN AMERICAN CITIZEN OR A CHINESE CITIZEN. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT HARRY WU ENJOYED ALL LEGAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED UNDER CHINESE LAW. HE SAID THAT IF LEGAL REPRESENTATION WAS PERMITTED BY CHINESE LAW AND IF WU WANTED LEGAL COUNSEL THAT HE SHOULD

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FORWARD A REQUEST TO THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES. MOREOVER, HE ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH HARRY WU WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AS A FOREIGNER IN CHINA HE WAS SUBJECT TO CHINESE CRIMINAL LAW.

5. REPORTERS ASKED WHETHER DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HARRY WU, THE TRIAL WOULD BE OPEN OR CLOSED. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT DECISION WOULD BE MADE AS THE INVESTIGATION DEVELOPED AND DEPENDED UPON THE NATURE OF THE STATE SECRETS INVOLVED. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CONDITIONS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT HARRY WU'S MOVEMENT FROM XINJIANG TO WUHAN, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT WUHAN

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HAS WHERE HARRY WU WAS LOCATED BEFORE HE LEFT CHINA AS WELL AS THE LOCATION WHERE SOME OF HIS ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRESUMED GUILT OF HARRY WU REGARDING THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IT HAD ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED THAT WU HAD REPEATEDLY SECRETLY ENTERED CHINA USING VARIOUS ALIASES AND GAVE INFORMATION THAT HE OBTAINED TO OVERSEAS ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH LED TO HIS ARREST. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WU'S EARLIER 19 YEAR INCARCERATION AND THE CURRENT CASE, AND WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY LATITUDE IN THIS CASE IN CONSIDERATION OF HIS PAST, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE CURRENT CHARGES WERE A SEPARATE CASE FROM WU'S EARLIER EXPERIENCES. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE DECISION WAS UP

TO THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU, ANYONE WHO VIOLATED THE LAW SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA

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6. A REPORTER ASKED WHETHER CHINA WAS CONCERNED THAT THE HARRY WU CASE WOULD FURTHER DAMAGE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AND WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONCERN ABOUT LINKAGE BETWEEN WU AND MFN RENEWAL. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SINCE HARRY WU'S CASE HAS A CRIMINAL ONE, IT HAD LITTLE LINKAGE TO U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. HE FURTHER ADDED THAT MFN STATUS HAS RECIPROCAL AND MUTUALLY ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT IT WAS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE WU CASE.

7. THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO RESPOND TO RECENT COMMENTS MADE BY CONGRESSMAN NEWT GINGRICH SUGGESTING U.S. RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THERE HAS ONLY ONE CHINA, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC HAS THE SOLE AUTHORITY OF ALL OF CHINA. HE SAID THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF TAIWAN BY ANY COUNTRY WOULD RESULT IN FAILURE, AND THAT CHINA WOULD NOT ALLOW TAIWAN TO BE SPLIT OFF. HE SAID THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD RESULT IN TURBULENCE REGIONALLY, AND WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AND ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE. HE FURTHER CAUTIONED U.S. POLITICIANS TO TAKE A LONGTERM, STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE OF THE TAIWAN ISSUE AND U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, AND URGED A U.S. RETURN TO THE SPIRIT OF THE THREE U.S.-CHINA JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

8. A REPORTER NOTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD IN RECENT WEEKS REPEATEDLY REAFFIRMED ITS POSITION ON ITS
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CHINA POLICY. THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED WHAT GENERAL STEPS THE U.S. COULD TAKE TO FURTHER U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE U.S. TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE THREE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

9. THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIGH LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER AND CHINESE VICE PREMIER/FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN AT THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM POST MINISTERIAL TO BE HELD LATER THIS SUMMER. THE SPOKESMAN SAID NO TALKS WERE SCHEDULED AS OF YET, BUT ADDED THAT THE GENERAL PROGRAM OF THE ASEAN MEETING HAD YET TO BE

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FINALIZED.

10. A REPORTER ASKED THE SPOKESMAN ABOUT CHINA'S REACTION TO THE EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH VIETNAM. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT CHINA WELCOMED PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUPPORTED THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE U.S. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

JIANG ZEMIN'S TRIP TO EUROPE

11. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN'S TRIP TO EUROPE, THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT CHINA ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE COUNTRIES ON JIANG'S TOUR, AND

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THAT JIANG WAS RECIPROCATING EARLIER VISITS BY THESE COUNTRIES TO CHINA. HE SAID THAT CHINA HOPED TO FURTHER DEVELOP POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HALLFORD

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